



To the Learned Academy of Surgery in Paris.

Gentlemen.

I have the honor to transmit three Cases, which have occurred under my inspection in y^e course of practice a short time ago, which I offer as a kind of demonstration, that Cancers proceed principally from a Vice, or Distemper in the Lymphatic Juice, and not from the Blood itself, as hath been y^e common Opinion. This I have hinted at in my last treatise on Cancers* but it may probably appear more confirmed from y^e following Facts.

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A Single Lady aged 32 Years, of delicate constitution, whose Menses were irregular from after thier first eruption, had frequently complained of Acute pains in her left Breast, it was followed with an Induration in those Glands, Emanagogues, and various Medicines were prescribed by her Physicians, but at length the Breast became partially carcinomatous, about y^e size of a large China Orange. Which was directed to be Extirpated by my Method. After y^e Operation the breast became perfectly cicatrized in a short time. Every thing concurring to hope for a Happy Cure for y^e space of a year and half, ^{when} An Unhappy Accident happening to her Sister, (who was suddenly seized with Lunacy) she received so great a Shock at the time, that y^e Menses which was then upon ^{her}, immediately stopped that discharge, and they did not return at the proper periods afterwards, nor with y^e due quantity.

About 5 Months from thence, the Breast from whence y^e Cancer had been Extirpated, began to appear Imphasematous, and gradually distended, to y^e full size of a large pomegranate, the Teguments became very thin, and Transparent, but no Discolour on y^e Surface of y^e Skin. I was at this time called again to offer assistance. On handling the Tumour, it felt rather like wind, than fluid, except from its gravity, and no pain attended it. The Eminent Mr Sharp Surgeon. Dr Green, & myself, were in consultation, when it was thought proper to make an Opening, to discharge the fluid from a depending part of y^e Breast, at y^e time very little water was discharged, scarcely a small Tea Cup full, & that a pure Lymph. On dilating the

* Vid: Practical Remarks on Cancers, & Disorders of y^e Breast. Presented to y^e King. by R. Guy. orrifice

a very large quantity of Soluced Hydatids protruded, & hung down like a bunch of grapes, of various figures & dimensions, connected & united with flacid spongy membranes. the Vesicles were immediately removed, and as we thought, from y^e Roots, & the part dressed up wth astringent Dressings. In two days afterwards, more Hydatids arose in different parts of y^e Sore, which were then removed likewise.

But at every Dressing, new ones appeared again, that all our attempts to suppress them were in vain. The Discharge of lymph flowing so greatly, that y^e Patient lost strength apace; every Endeavour, both by internal, and External Medicines, proved ineffectual in stopping it. The Hydatids at length became so numerous, that they were pendent near half way to her groin, and soon afterwards proved the cause of her Deaths.

P.B. Not y^e least Induration, nor cancerous appearance, in any part of y^e Breast at y^e time.

The Wife of a Shoemaker, applyd to me for Advice, having an inveterate Cancer in her Right breast, the circumstances as follows.

At y^e Age of 46 years, Her Menstrues deserted her, and she enjoyed good Health for near 5 years afterwards, but feeling some pain in her breast she discovered a Tumour of y^e size of a Nutmeg, but as it did not give her great pain. she endured it without consulting any one for near Twelve months, by which time y^e Tumour had grown as large as a Goose Egg, and became very painful, a Surgeon then advised her to have it extirpated, but could not prevail on her to submit to Excision, she suffered the disease to increase upon her for six months longer, and then consulted me. I found the whole Breast confirmedly cancerous, and immovably & adherent to y^e subjacent muscles, full of Tubercles, and overspread with a fiery Copper colour, the Axillary glands largely tumefied & scirrhus, y^e Carotid glands y^e same, and a large Tumour on y^e Clavicle; I determined y^e case incurable, & recommended other Advice. She consulted Mr. Hawkins Surgeon to King, & Dr. Wilkinson, who both confirmed my sentiments on her Situation. She then despairing of relief, submitted herself to y^e Mercy of y^e Disease, and used no Methods to alay its progress. About 3 Months afterwards, her Husband importuned me to see her again, informing me

Her Breast was greatly altered in its appearance, when I saw her. Indeed I was much astonished, in finding all the indurated Cancerous Substance, with y^e tubercles, subsided, together with y^e Scirrhi of y^e of y^e Axilla. & y^e Tumour on y^e Clavicle, and the whole Breast extended with fluid, to y^e size of a Childs Head. & without discolour on the Skin. I proposed ^{they} to make a perforation, to discharge the fluid, but could not prevail on her to submit, as she told me, she then felt very little or no pain, since the alteration had commenced. Two days afterwards, the Tumour burst, while she was in bed, & discharged, as she believed, above two pints of thin Lymph. y^e Orifice enlarged, and some membranous substances pushed out, and separated of itself, with no other dressing, than a common Suppurative cataplasim, which I directed her. In y^e space of a month, the breast became entirely well. & she continues in Health ever since. being near twelve months ago. ~



A Married Lady, 33. years of age, Sterile, and of healthy constitution, had always her menses regular. Having a Scirrhus Tumour in her right Breast, bigger than a large Seville Orange, the occasion of which she could not account for. was advised by her Physician to submit to y^e Operation of Excision, but on an absolute refusal to comply with ^{it}, was recommended to my care. The Tumour was immediately extirpated by my method, and in y^e space of 2 months perfectly Healed. Three years passed without any interruption in her Health, but after that time, Her Breast became Emphsematous (in y^e manner of the first case), and gradually extended itself to y^e ^{natural} size, yet free from Pain, or Discolour of y^e Segments. Doctors Tothergill, Andree. Physicians to y^e London Hospital, and Mr Sharp were in consultation, we determined to make an opening to discharge y^e fluid contents, but at y^e time only about a Spoonfull of Lymph was evacuated, a Cluster of Hydatids forced out immediately, as the Skin was divided, and the whole Substance of y^e Tumour consisted of vesicles of transparent Lymph, as in y^e former case. They were dissected out, with y^e utmost care, yet notwithstanding they still increased afresh for some time, and an extraordinary Discharge of Lymph attended at every Dressing, at length by Desiccative applications, the breast Healed, & she soon recovered to a good state of Health, and has continued so above six months.

N.B. She always was regular in her Menses even while y^e Breast discharged ^{red}

Her Breast was then greatly altered in its appearance, in such manner

The following Queries are Humbly Submitted.

Doeth not the Lymph appear to have been y^e Principle cause of y^e Disease, in y^e foregoing Cases?

Is it not common to find extravasated Lymph, either Encysted, or contained in Scirrhus Tumours, when they are divided, after being extirpated from y^e Breasts?

Is it not Possible for a diseased Lymph, for to corrode and alter the ^{texture} of y^e Lymphatic Vessels, and even the Glandular Substances, so as to render them of y^e Consistence we find Scirrhi?

Why are Glandular parts more particularly y^e Seats of Cancers, than the Muscular?

Why doeth not internal medicines, procure the same Salutary Assistance, in cancerous Ulcers of y^e breast, as in Ulcers of a different nature? Is it not Probable, that they never Enter into, nor Effect, nor Act upon the Lymphatic Circulation?

I am Gentlemen, with Highest veneration
for your Learned Society, Your Most Obedt^h Humb^l Serv^t

Rich^d Guy. Surgeon
Member of y^e Corporation of Surgeons
London. & of y^e Society of Artists.
H—

Mark Lane London

March y^e 20th 1764.

